

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: November 10, 2014

Reporter: JOHN KIDD

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

After twice determining that **JOHN KIDD** could hear and understand her, **PRESIDENT E.J. HONG** opened the meeting at 12:30. **KAREN KIENZLE** led the Pledge

PRE-PRE-PROGRAM

PRESIDENT E.J. solicited the aid of **IRIS KOROL** to engage the club in a new way to experience the social time before meetings start. Instead of sitting with those familiar faces we always sit with, we were given table assignments that grouped us with others who had birthdays in the same month. Horoscopes for the selected month were provided, with the suggestion that they be discussed. Our table didn't get very far with the horoscope, but did enjoy getting caught up with Visitor, previous Treasurer of the Club, and former economist for **SRI**, **Dick Carlson**.

PS. The cupcakes, donated by the new Fresh Market at the Edgewood Shopping Center, were small, but delicious! Maybe we should have Iris shake up our pre-meeting discussions more often.

PRE-PROGRAM

Evidently **PRESIDENT EJ** has been getting complaints from the older, male, hearing-impaired contingent again. Making sure that now it was all good, she solicited the leading of the Pledge of Allegiance from **BERT ROSE**. And then Iris did her reprieve by leading us in 'Happy Birthday' to Bert for the 40th anniversary of his 40th birthday. **MIKE BAIRD** was then given the mike to advise us, in a most Impressive manner, of all the work Rotary, and our Rotary Club in particular, do for Youth Services. In addition to being supportive of individual Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts groups, our club's Youth Services Committee is involved in: a 140 person strong Interact Club at Gunn High where the kids are passionate about public service; an annual high school student speech contest; and **RYLA**, which is a leadership training, life changing summer camp experience, also for high school students.



RALPH ADAMS Adams introduced his special guest, **Bob Kenyon**, who earned his Infantryman's Medal at Omaha Beach, a poignant reminder to us all about how grateful we are to our veterans.

To which **MIKE McMAHON** added, in honor of Veteran's Day, more poignancy by reading the famous post-WWI poem, "In Flander's Fields."



LYLE CONNELL, in opening remarks, made a simple but elegant argument that the difference between those that perform well and those that don't is not so much talent, intelligence or experience, but rather is attitude; specifically the 'Can Do' attitude that characterizes those that are prominent achievers. In regard to Rotary, it then follows that it is those with the attitude of one who can & will do service that make Rotary the force for good that it is in the world.



LEE LIPPERT joined the President's Club in celebration, or perhaps relief, on the occasion of his retirement from two very time consuming public service duties, the **PA Architectural Review Commission** and the **PA Planning & Transportation Commission**. Palo Altoans thank you, **LEE**, for your considerable efforts on behalf of all of us.



BILL FOGERTY kicked off the annual fund raising for the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund with a thorough description of what the Fund is, how it works, when and why it was created, who runs it, that contributions to it are tax deductible, why it is important for all Rotarians to contribute,,,, and more.

(For all the details, please refer to the good recent letter from the Endowment Fund Board.)

As we were about to nod off from data overload, Bill was brilliantly interrupted by one of the most dramatic announcements ever made from a Palo Alto Rotary podium.

And it was: **ROGER SMITH** invoking the spirit of the our deeply loved, recently deceased super member **SAM WEBSTER**- stepped up to announce that he was willing to help the Club match Sam's last \$50,000 contribution to The Endowment Fund by contributing a matching donation himself of **\$22,000**, *if* - the remainder of us contribute \$22,000 collectively before February 28th of next year, and *if* - 80% of the Club participates in the drive. So even if you can only afford \$10, your contribution is hugely important. The reason for the \$22,000 number comes from the fact that the Club has already raised \$6,000 which, when added to \$22,000 more from the Club and \$22,000 from Roger, results in an amount matching Sam's \$50,000. The reason for the peculiar 2/28/15 deadline is to permit those who wish to break their donation into two tax years to do so.



If you will pardon the editorial note; this, dear friends, is an extraordinarily generous offer and really needs to be met with enthusiastic participation from all of us.

PROGRAM

SALLY TOMLINSON took the podium to introduce today's speaker, **DENNIS BOYLE**. More accurately, Club Member Denny was a last minute pinch hitter for another representative from **IDEO**. **DENNY** is a founding partner of **IDEO**, which is a luminary Palo Alto company that stands out in the Silicon Valley world of innovation and entrepreneurialism. A graduate of Stanford with a Master's Degree in Product Design, he substituted for the scheduled program with a talk he had given to mid-western institutions about 'The Influence of Stanford on the Success of Silicon Valley.' Retelling the oft-told story of how an Electrical Engineering professor named **Fred Terman** encouraged two students with the last names of **Packard & Hewlett** to start with a \$1000 loan, a garage in Palo Alto, and the beginnings of a project they were working on in class, and then see if they could build it into a commercial success. Which they did. In doing so, history has shown that they gave impetus to a revolutionary development of innovation and entrepreneurialism with it's nexus here in what has become known as Silicon Valley. Denny touched on many of the factors along the way to today's prominence, including the Stanford Research Park, contributions by the **Varian** brothers and the interesting progression of literally thousands of spinoffs and startups from **Shockley** to **Fairchild** to **Intel**, et al. Important factors in the development included the corporate culture of "The HP Way" and the discovery that failure had value; particularly, as pointed out by **Betsy Bechtel**, when the societal norm accepted the idea of a two income family making it possible for one to fail without losing the farm.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17, Joel Rosenthal National Training Director, **VHA** Veterans Justice Programs: "Assisting our Justice Involved Veterans"

November 24 Judge LaDoris Cordell (ret) Independent Police Auditor, City of San Jose: "Civilian Oversight of the Police: What is it and why should you care?"